

RISTORI

AMUSEMENTS.

First Representation of Phaedra.

Ristori appeared last night in Racine's tragedy of *Phaedra*. Much was expected from the great tragedienne in difficult part, and the expectation was not disappointed. A more splendid piece of acting has rarely been witnessed upon the American stage. Promising as the subject of the tragedy has nothing to attract, but everything to suppress, any sympathy which the audience may feel with the leading character, the superb acting of Ristori overcomes in a measure the repulsiveness which an unnatural love must necessarily inspire. It is difficult to conceive anything more horrible than the story of Phaedra's unhappy love for the son of her husband, more terrible than the jealous hate which prompts her to denounce him to his father, and cause his punishment and death. But, as the ancient poets created this monstrous fiction, and the French dramatist, Racine, has given it to us in a form which demands the genius of a Ristori or a poet to interpret it in the intensity that can alone make the picture faithful, we can overlook the horror in the conception in the perfection of its rendition. The personation of *Phaedra* by Ristori suggests a comparison with that of *Rachel*. It was the great part of the latter artist, the one upon which, perhaps, her dramatic reputation was chiefly based. The *Phaedra* of *Rachel* was terrible, that of Ristori sublime. *Rachel's* *Phaedra* sought to influence the man whom her love was fixed, as it were, by the magnetism of her nature. She did not condescend to use any of the persuasive powers with which women in the heart they seek to win. The *Phaedra* of Ristori is more like the woman, which nature and not art created. In the scene where she avows her love for Hippolytus, she not only appeals to him in passionate language, but lays her hand affectionately upon his shoulder with a fond and delicate touch that almost changes his cold repulsion into a warmer sentiment, which is instantly manifested when he remembers that the beautiful and passioned suitor is his father's wife, and the love that abhors at his feet is incestuous and abhorrent. This is one of the finest passages in the play, drawing out Ristori's greatest power, and equalled only by the scene in the first act where *Phaedra* involuntarily declares her love for Hippolytus to *Enone*—hesitating to declare the name of the object of her passion—the denunciation of her confidante in the fourth act, when remorse overcomes her, and the grand finale, in which her confession to Theseus of her false charges against his son prevent her death.

In this brief allusion to the thread of the story, it is not unfamiliar to our readers, it may be seen that little sympathy there is with the character of *Phaedra*; yet Ristori invests it with an absorbing interest, which overcomes the repulsiveness naturally attached to a character in itself unnatural and abhorrent. In *Medea* there are many scruples in the way of our sympathy with the character to overcome. In *Elizabeth* we find vanities, vengefulness, and hypocrisies to palliate; hypocrisy and cruelty can attribute to hereditary failings. In *Mary Stuart* the sufferings of the martyr overshadow the sins of the woman. In *Judith* the sublime self-sacrifice of the patriot covers the crime of the murderer; but in *Phaedra* there is nothing to redeem her from the stain of most degrading passions and the basest subterfuge which a cowardly and evil nature can resort. And with all this, Ristori wins the sympathy of her audience for the heroine of the story, and commands the vote of applause again and again as each terrible scene is enacted.

Though there are two or three parts which might be considered as leading ones in this tragedy, Ristori, of course, absorbs the greater portion of the interest; but it would not be just if we did not give credit to Signora Ristori's rendition of *Enone*, upon which a good deal of the merit of Ristori's acting in the principal scenes depends. It was in every respect equal to the occasions and worthy of unqualified praise. From the reception which *Phaedra* met with last night its repetition, of course, become necessary. Those who have not yet had the pleasure of seeing it will have the opportunity to do so this evening.

NAVY BULLETIN.

ORDERED TO DUTY.
John A. Smith as fleet paymaster of the Gulf Squadron, and paymaster of the Estrella.

DETACHED.
Received Assistant Paymaster Henry D. Wright from the *U.S.A.*, when relieved, and ordered North to settle his accounts.

MISCELLANEOUS.

United States steamer *Candaniqua*, Captain W. R. Howell, arrived at Gibraltar from Cherbourg and Lisboa on September 20, and sailed the next day for the port of Candia to look after American interests in that country.

BROOKLYN INTELLIGENCE.

CHESAPEAKE PIRACY CASE.—This case was again called before United States Commissioner Newton yesterday. The defendant stated that he had not yet received any documentary matter for which he was waiting; whereupon the Commissioner adjourned the case until the 15th inst., unless other disposition should be made of it by the court.

OWNER OF WATCHES AND JEWELRY ALLEGED TO HAVE STOLEN.—A young woman named Mary Harris, alias Jones, Sarah Harris, Mary O'Hara and Sarah Anderson, was arrested yesterday, charged with robbing her sisters of watches and jewelry to a considerable amount, according to the commission of the offense, and held in custody of Mrs. Anderson, No. 129 Franklin street, and decamped, taking with her jewelry to the value of \$250. The same operation was committed at No. 141 Montgomery street, the value of the articles alleged to have been stolen there being little short of \$1000. The young woman was arrested at Paterson, N. J., brought to this city yesterday, when she was held for trial before Justice Corsewell this morning. The name mentioned, and also other articles of value believed to have been stolen, worth in all \$300, were recovered by the police.

ASSASSINATED POLICEMAN.—Nothing additional has been learned in relation to the assassination of officer John Bell, of the Forty-fifth precinct. The announcement of the time of the funeral in yesterday's papers, was incorrect, and will take place from the South Second street Methodist Episcopal church this afternoon.

MISSING AT EXPRESS WAGON.—About seven o'clock last evening one of Anderson's express wagons was robbed of trunks, valued with contents, at \$300, while leaving the Roosevelt street ferryboat at the foot of Smith street, E. D. At a later hour the trunks were found near Havemeyer & Miller's, Remsen, in Brooklyn. First information was given by officer Langman, of the Forty-fifth precinct.

NEW JERSEY INTELLIGENCE.

Hoboken.

LOWING OFF THE YORK.—The prohibition of the city ordinances relative to the running of cars on Sunday was agreed by the railroad company on last Sabbath, and announced their determination to run the cars also to-day. It is somewhat strange that the police did not enforce the order, and there is a rumor that the city authorities will recede from the position previously taken by them in this matter.

UNIFORM FOR THE POLICE.—An order was issued by Mayor Clark yesterday to Captain Donavan for the supply of uniforms to the police, the dress to consist of an overcoat, breeches, vest, and hat. The city will furnish \$25 towards each suit, balance to be defrayed by the officers.

Newark.

REAL ESTATE VALUE.—The total value of real estate in Essex county, as reported by the assessors of that county, is \$1,235,000. Newark reports \$60,866,700, Orange, \$1,065, West Orange, in which is situated Llewellyn Park, is valued at \$1,592,340.

RETIEMENT OF JUDGE HAINES.—On Wednesday afternoon Alexander County Grand Jury, who retires from the bench at the close of the present session, a copy of complimentary resolutions. The Judge responded in neat and appropriate words.

NEW COUNTY.—Steps are being taken in several of the towns of Essex county to petition the Legislature at its next session to form them into a new county, thus making Newark a distinct county. The Legislature at a previous session refused to give the city the right and title of a county.

NEWS FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

FORTRESS MONROE, Oct. 10, 1866.
The officers constituting the Soldiers' Monument Board, which was organized fifteen months ago to solicit subscriptions to locate a soldiers' cemetery on the Peninsula, have nearly completed their labors, in which they have been assisted by the U. S. A. The funds received

Broadway Theatre.

The elements, however adverse, seem to have little effect upon the theatres in which Maggie Mitchell plays. She has for years been a prime favorite in the Metropolis, and her popularity appears to increase at every new engagement. The secret of her success lies in her entire naturalness and her good sense of choosing parts for which she is fitted. Had she attempted what is known as the legitimate drama she would have rested so long under a cloud that few persons would have recognized her stellar position, and fewer still have conceded it to her. Instead of essaying to talk fustian in blank verse, after the manner of the stately Roxana and impious Statira, she elected less ambitious, but far more interesting, roles. She not only played, but became Fanchon, Little Footsteps and Marie. Her delightful freshness, charming naïveté, and captivating abandon made her peerless in his country in her peculiar line of characters. Few of those who witness her efforts feel inclined to criticize her; for she is so sympathetic that criticism is out of the question. You apply rules to her no more than you would to the captivating coquettish of the fair anonymous who has ensnared your peace. You accept her as she is, and thank the good Gods that she is not otherwise. We have seen men, whose experiences in real life had made most stage representations tame and tedious, play the woman with their eyes, and laugh like school boys over her pathos and her drollery. We have not infrequently detected ourselves on the eve of exercising the lachrymal gland over some of her delicious bits of nature. No one can help confessing that she, above any other actress of the time, has the power of winning upon—almost magnetizing—her audiences; and she fairly deserves to be regarded as the most popular comedienne in the country.

Last evening she appeared for the fifth time as Marie, in the *Pearl of Savoy*. Domestic dramas for the week past, like theological novels, are insipid to the last degree. The *Pearl of Savoy* is an exception, making up in immorality for what one might consider its rightful inheritance of dulness. The fair Maggie, however, makes us forget the absurdities of the play by her capital rendering. We laugh and weep with her, and rejoice at her final happiness—(Marie certainly deserves it for preserving her virtue under circumstances in which all the vestals would have failed)—as over that of a personal friend, whose trials and sufferings have made her more dear than prosperity had ever shewn.

Thalia Theatre.

A small but enthusiastic audience assembled at this theatre last night to witness the representation of *La Marquise de Vilette*, one of Mrs. Birchfielder's most famous productions. The play is so familiar to the German theatre going public that it is quite unnecessary to allude to the plot. Miss Hesse undertook the title rôle. In the scene in which she tells her aunt that she loves Bolingbroke, he was unnecessarily loud, forgetting that a great artiste can affect far more by a simple movement than by the most violent vocal exertion. However, she interpreted the character well on the whole. Mr. Haertung justified his reputation as Henry Bolingbroke, and proved that this rôle is his forte. Mr. Lehmann, as Duke of Orleans lacked *noblesse*, he failed to convey the impression that the proudest blood of France flowed in his veins, and Mr. Klotz, as Duke de Maine, was also hardly in his element. He seemed to forget that the character whom he impersonated was lame according to history, and, although an occasional halt in his gait was visible, it was impossible to determine whether this was the result of accident or intention. Mrs. Ahlfeldt's Madame de Maintenon lacked the dignity ascribed by history to that crafty *intrigante*; but her maid of honor, Damocle Babineau, represented by Madame Riedel was highly appreciated and warmly received by the audience. The piece was, altogether, well put on the stage and creditably performed throughout. There is a rumor that Adelma Scheller has withdrawn from this theatre, and that she will appear with Mr. Dawson, at one of our fashionable theatres, at the conclusion of his present engagement.

Park Theatre, Brooklyn.

Notwithstanding the inclement state of the weather last evening this theatre was attended by a full and appreciative audience, to witness the reproduction of Sheridan's favorite comedy, "School for Scandal." The plot and interesting positions and incidents in this old and popular play are too well known to need comment. Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Conway sustained respectively the characters of Sir Peter and Lady Teazle. Both representations were good. Mrs. Conway particularly displayed, in her rendition of the character, so much natural good humor as to elicit the frequent plaudits of the audience. This cannot be said of those who supported them in the piece. In Viola Barrett's personification of Maria, that lady did not exhibit her natural good talent, nor did she seem to comprehend the spirit or depth of feeling characteristic of her part. Mr. Parker as Rowley was unmechanical in his movements, and seemed to be suffering from a chronic fear of facing the audience. Mr. G. Fren's Moses was a fearful burlesque on the members of the Jewish persuasion, and his attempts at the Hebrew vernacular were simply ridiculous.

Hartz's Magician Entertainment.

Professor Hartz, the celebrated European illusionist, once his change of base from Irving Hall to Dodworth Hall, has been crowding the latter place nightly with appreciative audiences, who frequently during the entertainments evince the pleasure that they feel in being included in the heartiest rounds of applause. The principal charm about Professor Hartz's tricks is that, being performed in the very midst of the audience, those present are kept perpetually upon the qui vive to detect him in his illusions, while the absence of all that mystifying atmosphere and surroundings, for which most magicians have become renowned, but serves to make even the most insignificant deception the more interesting. Most of the illusions of Prof. Hartz are unequalled for the skillful and dexterous manner in which they are performed, often being done under the very eyes of those in his immediate vicinity, without the slightest possible chance of detection. His card tricks are intangible, and the trick of the silver coins has never been surpassed. The miraculous sphinx still puzzles and delights his audience, and the addition of several new illusions to his already attractive programme, fails not to draw crowded houses nightly.

The Matinees To-Day.

A grand Ristori matinee will be given at the French theatre this afternoon, Ristori sustaining her famous rôle of Mary Stuart.

At the Broadway theatre Miss Maggie Mitchell gives one of her last representations of Marie, the Pearl of Savoy, at a matinee, commencing at one o'clock and terminating at a quarter to four P. M. The attendance upon Miss Mitchell's performances during her engagement has been very ample and highly fashionable.

The second Howard Paul matinee opens at Irving Hall at one o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul will appear in a very brilliant programme, including their humorous songs, parlor scenes and dramatic personations, with Mr. Paul as Napoleon the Third and Mrs. Paul as Sims' leaves.

Tony Pastor's matinee entertainment will be given at the Opera House, in the Bowery, at the usual hour to-day. The Robber King will be repeated, with all the other good pieces of a very ample bill, and Tony Pastor's songs.

At the New York theatre, Broadway, a matinee representation, the only one, of the very successful American comic opera, *The Doctor of Alcantara*, will be given, opening at half-past one o'clock.

Mr. Hartz, the illusionist, gives a matinee at Dodworth Hall, commencing at two o'clock. He will repeat his extraordinary feats and exhibit the "Wondrous Living Dead."

Charley White's Minstrels and Combination Company are to perform in a matinee at Coney Island Mechanics Hall, opening at half-past two o'clock.

Musical.

The Park Commissioners announce that if the weather is fine there will be music on the Mall at the Park this afternoon, commencing at three o'clock, by the Park band, under the leadership of H. B. Dodworth. The following is the programme:

1. Quick March	Hammond
2. Overture to Zenobia	Conrad
3. Song, "Sleep well, thou sweet angel"	Grover
4. Mazurka Waltz	Geoffrey
5. March—Spanish	Hammond
6. Overture to Pizarro	Wm. Weber
7. Lovers' Or Prints	Schneider
8. Selection from Moses in Egypt	Rosenblatt
9. March—Italian	Hammond
10. Russian National Hymn	Vardi
11. Arie, "La mia fama"	Conrad
12. Gipsy—Pavilions	Dodworth

Signor Brignoli has achieved a signal triumph in Boston. Large audiences received him with enthusiasm, and the press speak of him in the highest terms. With

The Paula are attracting large audiences at Irving Hall. They have Americanized their programme to a great extent, and in singing and in comic scenes they are unsurpassed.

Mr. Carl Anschutz will give his second orchestral and vocal concert at the Germania Assembly Rooms tomorrow evening.

The Richings Opera Company are at Pittsburg, Pa. The Strakosch Musical Alliance troupe are at Cleveland, Ohio.

A concert was given by the Bateman troupe at Providence on Tuesday evening.

Miscellaneous Theatricals.

Mr. Charles Dillon closes a very successful engagement in Memphis this (Saturday) evening. He comes direct to New York for the purpose of superintending the production of King Lear, Louis XI., Othello, Macbeth, Richard III., and other legitimate plays, in which he will appear during his engagement of six weeks at the Broadway theatre, commencing November 5.

The Webb Sisters (Emma and Ada) commenced an engagement at the Louisville theatre on Monday last. The Husband for an Hour and the Young Actress were the opening pieces.

Miss Charlotte Thompson commenced an engagement at the new Memphis theatre on Monday evening last.

The Hanion Brothers are performing at Indianapolis, Ind.

Miss Mary Gladstone announces the present as her last week at the National theatre, Cincinnati.

Lucille Western is filling her second week's engagement at Wood's theatre, Cincinnati.

Laura Keene is at McVicker's theatre, Chicago.

Boothroyd Fairclough commenced an engagement at the Detroit theatre on the 8th inst. He played Richelieu on Tuesday evening last, Miss Virginia J. Howard as Julie De Mortimer.

The Florences are playing a second week's successful engagement at Pittsburg, Pa.

Helen Western is at Lowell, Mass. The plays announced for Thursday evening last were the Corsican Brothers and the Octo-ron.

THE DUDLEY WILL CASE.

OUR TROY CORRESPONDENCE.

Troy, Oct. 12, 1866.

One of the most interesting law suits now in progress through the courts of this State is the Dudley Will case at Albany. Legally, morally, socially and financially, it secures attention from all who have any knowledge of it, as well as from the numerous and highly respected parties interested in the disposition of a large estate.

The eminent counsel arrayed before the Surrogate, the questions involved and the amount in controversy, as well as the private history of family rivalries and jealousies excited by the hapless condition of the testatrix, an aged and infirm lady, burdened with property and worn out by the entreaties and importunities of various relatives, the influence brought to bear by her servants and agents in the production of the will in controversy, the growth of her colored servant from being waiter at her table to be her "man of business," with full charge and entire management of her estate of \$600,000, and how he managed it, and who has got possession of most of it; the mental condition of the lady, who lived alone in her house with her servants for twenty years after the death of her husband, the late Charles E. Dudley, at one time Mayor of Albany and United States Senator, contemporary with Martin Van Buren; the extensive family connections among the old batch; indeed, all the surroundings of this case tend to make it notable in the legal annals of the State.

The case is now in the Supreme Court, on appeal from the order of the Surrogate of Albany County, Hon. James Lawton, admitting the will to probate. From the records of the Surrogate's Court and the two thousand pages of testimony taken before him, I am enabled to extract some of the leading features of the case.

Blandina Dudley, the testatrix, died at her home in Albany on the 5th day of March, 1863, aged nearly eighty years. She left a will (the one in controversy) dated December 20th, 1862. In it Robert H. Hilton and Edward E. Kendrick were nominated executors. By a codicil dated the 24th of August, 1863, Robert H. Pruyne, the democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor, was also nominated an executor. Seven years before Mrs. Dudley's death, the estate was known to be worth \$650,000, when it passed from the hands of her regular agent, Hon. Thomas W. Olcott, of Albany, and went under the control of the colored servant spoken of, William A. Deitz. At her death the state was found to consist of real estate in Albany mostly, valued at only about \$120,000. What had become of the estate was the question.

Mrs. Dudley was known to have given liberally, and to have graven her name on the "Dudley Observatory" as an endowment. She was known to yield easily to the entreaties of her numerous relatives, some of whom were in moderate circumstances, but her annual income could do all that without depleting the estate—and the question still agitated, where had the property gone to? the colored agent, Deitz, and the counsel, Hilton, appear to be the only persons who knew, and they are the principal witnesses to establish the will. I shall not attempt even a synopsis of the testimony. But it appears from the summing up of counsel before the Surrogate that, by some means or other, about \$350,000 had been given away by Mrs. Dudley to two branches of her family—her nephews and nieces—namely, the Millers, of Oneida county, and her nieces, the Tibbits, of Albany and Troy; and that a third branch of her family, namely, the Brinkerhoffs, of Albany, had been entirely overlooked and forgotten, both in her gifts and in the will before the court.

It also appears that the colored servant and agent Deitz had received, over and above his regular pay and salary, as a gift, \$15,000 in one item, and in several others, enough to make a total of about \$25,000.

Deitz is said to be a good business man, of radical politics, and interested in the elevation of the colored race; and his connection with this case would seem to show that it is better to be agent than principal, administrator than world, as the world goes.

But where is the balance of the property?

By the will now in controversy, Mrs. Dudley gives her silver and plated ware to her nephews and nieces, except L. B. Miller, of Utica, and Sarah B. Tibbits, of Troy, who are cut off for some reason, or by reason of some of the innumerable whims, oddities, idiosyncrasies and insane sensations wherewith the old lady is shown to have been possessed of in her latter days; also her apparel, diamonds and personal ornaments, with the same exceptions as above.

\$20,000 to John B. Miller, of Utica.
\$10,000 to Mrs. Milson, of New Jersey.
\$5,000 to Rev. Henry Stanley's children.
\$4,000 to Isabella Forbes, her servant.
\$1,000 to Elizabeth Van Vrooman, her servant.
\$3,000 to William A. Deitz, colored servant and agent.
\$12,000 to several churches and societies in Albany.
\$30,000 to the Dudley Observatory.

The remainder of the estate is divided between Mrs. Elizabeth Tibbits, of Albany, and Mrs. Horatio Seymour, of Utica.

In April, 1863, the executors offered the will for probate to the Surrogate of Albany county, counsel for the proponents being R. J. Hilton, Clark B. Cochrane, John C. Porter, now of the Court of Appeals bench; Hamilton Harris, and Samuel Hand, of Albany.

Mrs. Elizabeth Brinkerhoff, of Albany, surviving sister of Mrs. Dudley, one of the contestants, appeared by her counsel, James Forsteth, of Troy; Lyman Tremain and Jerry Smith of Albany, the side District Attorney.

Mrs. Sarah B. Tibbits, also one of the contestants, now dead in Europe, appeared by her counsel, William A. Deitz, of Troy.

Ira Shaffer, ex Senator, of Albany, is counsel for the guardian of minor children in the case.

About three years were consumed in this case before the Surrogate. It now passes up. The next argument of the case will be before the General Term winter.

The estate is now in the hands of a special administrator, Mr. Bancroft, pending the litigation, which promises to be long as the estate will pay lawyers.

I notice that Robert H. Pruyne and Edward E. Kendrick have qualified as executors, and that the records show a joint judgment against them in favor of the colored servant and agent, Deitz, of over \$4,000, and that the special administrator and the executors have difficulty as to who is entitled to the possession of the property while the case is pending and undecided in the courts. But the administrator, Mr. Bancroft, seems to have it at present.

There is in this case a fine chance for forensic display of ingenuity in argument, writing and collating of testimony and marshaling of authorities.

The proponents produced a written memorandum of requests to be made, in the handwriting of the testatrix, and relied upon this as conclusive evidence that the instrument was her will and drawn as she desired.

The contestants, however, regarded that paper as additional evidence that Mrs. Dudley was incompetent to make a will, and so considered by her counsel and those in charge of her, and they beat that she was ignorant and her hand guided in writing the paper with a view to secure all question of her intention and competency on the trial, which they anticipated and began to provide against four years before the death of the testatrix.

Like most cases of this magnitude, the entire tour of the country will be made before the parties litigant will be satisfied. Indeed, it seems that the testimony was printed with a view of reaching the Court of Appeals as the last resort.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

TRADE SHOWS AND CONVENTIONS